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November 18, 2004

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service,  
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Western Wireless Corp. ("Western Wireless"), Dr. Lee Selwyn of Economics & Technology, Inc. participated as a panelist on both panels of the *en banc* hearing that the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service conducted yesterday in Nashville, Tennessee. I am attaching four documents that were distributed to the Joint Board members: a summary of Dr. Selwyn's testimony; two associated slide decks (one slide deck for each of the two panels); and a copy of an article, "Fees Paid By All Phone Customers Help Rural Phone Firms Prosper," by Paul Davidson, which appeared in USA TODAY on November 16, 2004.

In addition, Dr. Selwyn made *ex parte* presentations on November 16, 2004 to Joint Board member Thomas Dunleavy (Commissioner, New York Public Service Commission) and to Joint Board nominee Elliott Smith (Board Member, Iowa Utilities Board). On November 17, 2004, Gene DeJordy and Jim Blundell of Western Wireless, Dr. Selwyn, and the undersigned made *ex parte* presentations to Joint Board members Bob Nelson (Commissioner, Michigan Public Service Commission) and Billy Jack Gregg (Director, West Virginia Office of Consumer Advocate). These presentations covered the same topics as those addressed in Dr. Selwyn's testimony.

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If you have any questions, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Sieradzki". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'D' and a trailing flourish.

David L. Sieradzki  
Counsel for Western Wireless Corp.

cc: Thomas Dunleavy  
Robert Nelson  
Billy Jack Gregg  
Elliott Smith